(b) if so, what are the details of countries from which power generation equipments will be imported;

(c) whether the import of power generation equipments will have any adverse effect on the indigenous manufacturers; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and what steps Government propose to take to save the indigenous power equipment manufacturers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) to (d) The Eighth Five Year Plan has not yet been finalised. However, primary reliance in the matter of supply of plant and equipment for power development programmes continues to be placed on the indigenous manufacturers. Imports are resorted to only selectively and on merits, depending on the totality of the circumstances, and the interests of indigenous manufacturers of lower generation equipment are kept in view.

Grim power situation

2957. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to a study conducted by the Confederation of Engineering Industry, it has been revealed that the country's power situation during 1987-88 was grim as generation was far behind;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government in this regard;

(c) what is the target of power generation fixed during the Seventh Plan period; and

(d) whether the same has since been achieved if not, what are the reasons therefor and what further steps are proposed to be taken by Government to boost the power generation in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) The power supply position in the country during 1987-88 was as under:—

Requirement	210993 MU
Availability	187976 MU
Shortage	23017 MU
per cent Shortage	10.9 per cent

Confederation of Engineering Industry have also indicated a shortage of 10.9 per cent.

(b) The measures being taken to improve the availability of power include expediting commissioning of new generation capacity, implemention of short gestation projects, improving the performance of existing power stations, reducing transmission and distribution losses, implementation of demand management and energy conservation measures and arranging transfer of energy from surplus to deficit areas.

(c) During the Seventh Plan period the target of additional capacity for power generation has been fixed as 22245 MW.

(d) During the first three years of the Seventh Plan i.e. upto 1987-88 a capacity of 11828.94 MW has been commissioned. Various measures have been taken to obviate delays in completion of power projects which include extensive monitoring of the projects, expediting supply of equipments and materials, visit to projects site by Senior Officers of the Government and Central Electricity Authority to identify and over come the constraints. The need for effective project management has also been emphasised on the State Authorities. With these measures, it is expected that the targets fixed for the Seventh Plan will be fully achieved.

Telephone link from Balia District Headquarters

2958. SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal with Government to provide a telephone link